

## ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 9<sup>H</sup> OCTOBER 2024 AT 7:00PM ON MS TEAMS & IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ABERGAVENNY.

**Present:** Cllr P Bowyer (Chair)  
Cllr M Barnes (Vice Chair)  
Cllr M Brocklesby  
Cllr S Burch  
Cllr D English  
Cllr J George  
Cllr M Groucott  
Cllr C Holland  
Cllr B Nicholson  
Cllr M Powell  
Cllr D Simcock  
Cllr A Wilde  
Cllr G Wilde  
Cllr L Wright

#### In attendance:

Sandra Rosser – Principal Officer / RFO  
Jay Shipley – Deputy Principal Officer / Deputy RFO  
PC Aled Thompson – Community Police Officer

<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Report from PC Aled Thompson</b>
	<p>Reports circulated from PC Thompson on latest crime figures and statistics. Sugarloaf CCTV Pilot has been successful. Residents now reporting issues direct to the police giving audit trail and opportunities to target locations proving problematic re anti-social behaviour. Advice is to note registrations. If CCTV available, then police would be pleased to collect images. Campers no longer an issue as it appears they have moved closer to town. There have been ongoing issues of anti-social behaviour linked to visitors to the fair arriving by train, resulting in a dispersal order on one night. Police are working with stores/shops locally to curb shoplifting. Police are trying to identify a young male who is causing concern by approaching young girls. Police would value people contacting them with concerns. The person who was supergluing ATM's and Parking machines has been identified and arrested. Food Festival went well. One</p>

	incident of assault was dealt with swiftly. Cllr Groucott offered thanks for work police do to support the community.
<b>PR 98/24</b>	<b>Receive and approve apologies for absence.</b> Apologies were received from Cllr B Callard, Cllr K Eldridge, Cllr G Jones. It was resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
<b>PR 99/24</b>	<b>Receive Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda.</b> Cllr Burch – Planning and Finance – Gateway Credit Union Cllr Powell - Planning
<b>PR 100/24</b>	<b>To approve the minutes from 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b> Removal of comment in PR 95/24 requested by Cllr G.Wilde. Cllr English proposed the minutes from the meeting on 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2024, be accepted as a true and accurate record seconded by Cllr Holland Resolved by all Councillors to accept this proposal.
<b>PR 101/24</b>	<p><b>Finance:</b></p> <p>Reports received and noted.</p> <p>(a) To receive Month 6 Reconciliation Report</p> <p>(b) To receive Month 6 Cashbook Report.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Holland, seconded by Cllr English to accept reported accounts. Resolved by all Cllrs to accept the proposal. Vote of thanks from Cllr Barnes about support for Black Mountain Jazz.</p> <p>(c) To receive Month 6 bank statements</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Holland, seconded by Cllr Bowyer to accept statements. Resolved by all Cllrs to accept the proposal.</p> <p>(d) To receive Quarter 2 VAT return submission. Cllrs allowance to be paid in November. NB if Cllrs claim HMRC working from home allowance – inform Principal Officer as the Cllrs' Allowance will be taxed in accordance with HMRC requirements. Proposed by Cllr A Wilde, seconded by Cllr Barnes to accept return to HMRC. Resolved by all Cllrs to accept the proposal.</p> <p>(e) To consider a report on Earmarked Reserve Projects.</p> <p>Report noted. Section 151 requires a contingency of £250k held to cover costs for 6 months. Cllr Bowyer: ATC should be proud of the way accounts have been managed so that projects can go ahead. Acceptance, to put the requested funding into earmarked reserves, proposed by Cllr Barnes seconded by Cllr M Powell. All Cllrs in agreement.</p> <p>(f) To consider a first draft of the proposed budget for 2025/26. Cllr Barnes proposed a vote of thanks to the</p>

	<p>Principal Officer for an excellent beginning in getting the figures out early.</p> <p>Suggestions from councillors for possible projects to support: Cllr Nicholson – projects to support implementation of Action Plan. Cllr Burch: Community growing/Neville Hall Nature Spaces. Cllr G Wilde: looking ahead 2026/27 twinning events/civic functions possibly a Europeade. Cllr George: an agreed allocation of funds to be spent by ward councillors on ward specific projects. Expenditure would still be regulated under Local Gov't Expenditure Act.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr A Wilde seconded by Cllr Holland that councillors accept the draft proposals. All Cllrs in agreement.</p>
PR102/24	<p><b>To receive a report from the Principal Officer.</b></p> <p>Report received and noted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Gwent Police Reports</b> See above</li> <li><b>2. War Memorial Project</b> Monmouthshire Couty Council scheduling major roadworks for Baker &amp; Frogmore Street in April 2025. Recommended to postpone this project until after the road works have been completed. Proposal agreed by all Cllrs.</li> <li><b>3. One Voice Wales Governance Documents</b> One Voice Wales document to accompany training modules designed to inform Councillors of their obligations upon signing their declaration of office. Document "Practice Development Note 8 - Code of Conduct: Members and officers - A simple guide for Community and Town Councils" has been circulated.</li> <li><b>4. Senedd Inquiry into the role, governance and accountability of the Community and Town Council sector.</b> The Welsh Parliament's Local Government and Housing Committee inquiry into the role, governance and accountability of the community and town council sector. Responses invited by 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024. If it is the decision of the Council to submit a response, it is suggested the Chair of Policy and Resources Committee and the Principal Officer submit a</li> </ol>

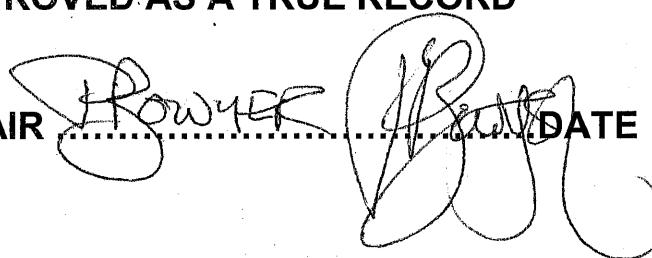
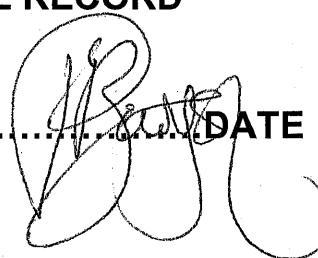
	<p>response on behalf of Abergavenny Town Council. Cllr Groucott stated it was 'incumbent on ATC to respond. ATC is exemplary in the manner in which it serves its community and has transformed quality of life in the town'. Cllr Groucott asked to be included in creating the response. Report to be generated and submitted by 14/10/24. Individual responses from Cllrs encouraged. Agreed by all Cllrs.</p> <p><b>5. Monmouthshire County Council Consultations</b></p> <p><b>(a) <u>Share Your Voice: Shape the Future of Our Environment</u></b></p> <p>ATC is invited to participate in MCC's community consultation, aimed at understanding how the climate and nature emergency impacts Monmouthshire.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure Strategy sets out MCC's approach to enhancing biodiversity and increasing ecosystem resilience. Consultation closes 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024.</p> <p><b>(b) <u>HELP SHAPE MONMOUTHSHIRE'S FUTURE VISITOR ECONOMY</u></b></p> <p>MCC is currently reviewing Monmouthshire's tourism Destination Management Plan.</p>
<b>PR 103/24</b>	<p><b>To receive an update from the Place Making steering committee:</b></p> <p>Cllr Bowyer: Slide packs have been circulated. Walkabout planned for 14<sup>th</sup> November. There is another meeting of stakeholders planned prior to this.</p>
<b>PR 104/24</b>	<p><b>To receive and approve the updated Strategy and Action Plan.</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
<b>PR 105/24</b>	<p><b>To receive reports from Councillors attendance at external bodies which are relevant to this Committee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Borough Theatre MCC / ATC Collaboration – Cllr Groucott and Cllr Nicholson - No report.</li> <li>• Melville CftA CIC Board – Cllrs Barnes and Cllr Burch: MCC work has started on disabled access.</li> <li>• One Voice Wales: Cllrs Holland and Bowyer attending conference and will report at the next</li> </ul>

	<p>meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abergavenny Citizens Advice Bureau – Cllr A Wilde and Cllr L Wright – 972 people seen; 3193 issues presented, £653k in reduced debt. – Cllr G Wilde stated that CAB was good value; ‘it’s a lifesaver for people’. ‘a strong case to be made to look at financial support for CAB.’</li> </ul>
<b>PR 106/24</b>	<p><b>To receive reports from County Councillors on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to Policy and Resources Committee.</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
<b>PR 107/24</b>	<p><b>To consider the following planning applications:</b></p> <p>DM/2024/01112  DM/2024/01191  DM/2024/01167  DM/2024/01181 – approve - raise with highways concerns about the road surface, access and parking.</p> <p>There being no material considerations all 4 planning applications were approved by Councillors.</p>
<b>PR 108/24</b>	<p><b>To consider items for the next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024.</b></p> <p>(i) Request presentation on Cost of Living – Emma Goode</p>

**Meeting ended 20:29 pm**

**APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD**

**CHAIR**

**DATE**

**13/11/24**